

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate to selectively position a portion of the microscope plate in a viewing field of the microscope to be observed through the microscope, comprising:

a base platform adapted to be placed on a microscope base and having a view through portion positioned in the viewing field of the microscope;

an indexing platform adapted to have the microscope plate placed slidingly thereon and having a view through portion overlying the view through portion of the base platform;

side rails along the indexing platform defining a microscope plate slideway to limit sliding movement of the microscope plate on the indexing platform to movement in substantially a single dimension, whereby portions of the microscope plate can be selectively positioned over the view through portions of the indexing platform and the base platform to place such selected portion of the microscope plate in the microscope viewing field;

a guide pin extending from the indexing platform;

a guide groove in the base platform to receive the guide pin when the indexing platform is in position on the base platform;

an indexing pin extending from the indexing platform;

a plurality of indexing holes in the base platform to receive the indexing pin in a selected indexing hole when the indexing platform is in position on the base platform; and

means for maintaining the base platform in substantially fixed position on the microscope base when placed in desired position thereon.

2. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 1, additionally including an indexing groove in the base platform from which the indexing holes extend.

3. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 2, wherein the indexing pin extends from the indexing platform, through the indexing groove, and into a selected indexing hole when the indexing platform is positioned on the base platform.

4. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 3, wherein the means for maintaining the base platform in substantially fixed position on the microscope base are slip resistant feet supporting the base platform on the microscope base.

5. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 4, wherein the slip resistant feet are polyurethane feet.

6. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 3, wherein the means for maintaining the base platform in substantially fixed position on the microscope base is a plurality of locating pins extending from the microscope base.

7. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 6, wherein the locating pins are adhesively attached to the microscope base.

8. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 7, wherein the base platform includes locating pin receiving holes to receive the locating pins.

9. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 3, wherein the microscope plate to be indexed includes a plurality of rows of wells to be observed through the microscope, and each indexing hole aligns a row of the microscope plate with the viewing field of the microscope.

10. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 9, wherein each row includes a plurality of wells, and sliding the microscope plate on the indexing platform aligns a selected well of the selected row of wells in the viewing field of the microscope.

11. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 10, additionally including stops on the indexing platform to limit sliding travel of the microscope plate on the indexing platform.

12. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 2, wherein the guide groove and the indexing groove are aligned on opposite sides of the view through portion of the base platform.

13. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 2, additionally including labels adjacent each indexing hole along a side of the indexing groove.

14. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 1, wherein the microscope plate to be indexed includes a plurality of rows of wells to be observed through the microscope, and each indexing hole aligns a row of the microscope plate with the viewing field of the microscope.

15. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 14, wherein each row includes a plurality of wells, and sliding the microscope plate on the indexing platform aligns a selected well of the selected row of wells in the viewing field of the microscope.

16. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 15, additionally including stops on the indexing platform to limit sliding travel of the microscope plate on the indexing platform.

17. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 1, wherein the means for maintaining the base platform in substantially fixed position on the microscope base are slip resistant feet supporting the base platform on the microscope base.

18. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 17, wherein the slip resistant feet are polyurethane feet.

19. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 1, wherein the means for maintaining the base platform in substantially fixed position on the microscope base is a plurality of locating pins extending from the microscope base.

20. Apparatus for indexing a microscope plate according to Claim 19, wherein the locating pins are adhesively attached to the microscope base.